(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken in that regard by Government during the last two years; and

(c) whether any official has been found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL): (a) According to the financial and physical progress reports received from the State Governments, the performance of the rural development programmes has been found to be satisfactory.

(b) With a view that the programme benefit reaches the target rural households, the Ministry of Rural Development has evolved multi-level and multi tool monitoring mechanism, which includes Periodical Progress Reports received from the States/UTs both off-line and on-line, field visits by Area Officers of the Ministry and discussions with the State Secretaries and with the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies/ Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishads/Panchayats, monitoring by the District Level Monitoring agencies and National Level Monitors. Besides, Concurrent Evaluations and Impact Assessment Studies are also conducted to find out more effective ways of achieving the programme objectives. The Ministry of Rural Development has also adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) transparency (iii) peoples partnership and (iv) accountability, in order to expedite the works related to all these schemes. District level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees have been reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Member of Parliament, to monitor and review of rural development schemes at district level.

(c) The shortcomings in the implementation process and areas of concern are communicated to the concerned State for appropriate action.

**Providing funds for potable water**

†2681. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India would provide funds for arrangement of potable water in all the rural habitations; and

(b) the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. However, Government of India through a centrally sponsored scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has been rendering financial assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide potable drinking water in the rural habitations. The funds are allocated to the States based on a criteria, which takes into account rural population, geographical conditions, number of not covered and partially covered habitations and water quality status.

**Backlog vacancies**

2682. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies in all the cadres as on 31st March, 2004 in all the departments under the Ministry;

(b) the number of vacancies filled in during the last two years; and

(c) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL): (a) The number of backlog vacancies in all the cadres as on 31st March, 2004 in all the departments under the Ministry of Rural Development is 60.

(b) The number of vacancies filled in during the last two years is 111.

(c) The number of backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006 under the Ministry of Rural Development is 152.

**Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**

2683. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts covered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, State-wise at the initial stage;

(b) the allocation of funds made to each Distt.;